



# 21 Days with God

2026  
DAN RIVER CHURCH



# Welcome to 2026!

As we begin a new year, our need for God is as obvious as ever. In new ways, we feel the reality of Jesus' words: "... apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5, NLT). We, as a church and as individuals, can do nothing apart from God's work. For that reason, we want to start the year by having our church family come together for 21 days of prayer and fasting. Our hope is for this experience to anchor us to our purpose as the people of God at Dan River Church.

We are eager to see God do great things in us and through us. We believe this year has the potential to be your greatest year ever. God has a great plan for your life. "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans" (Proverbs 16:3, NIV).

Our theme at the beginning of this year is "desperate." We want to become people desperate for God. People desperate for God will seek the presence of God. People desperate for God will live with a bold faith. People desperate for God will never give up. People desperate for God will persist in prayer. Our prayer is that we will become people desperate for God.

For the next 21 days, we will lay the spiritual foundation for the rest of 2026 through prayer and fasting. Fasting disconnects us from the world, while prayer connects us to God. When we put the two together, we will see God do a tremendous work in our lives! This guide will walk you through everything you need to know for the next three weeks. Thank you for joining us on the journey. Let's get started!

For reflection:

What do you want to see God do in and through your life this year?

What do you want to see God do in and through our church this year?

# FASTING

Why do we fast? Simply put, the goal of fasting is to turn away from worldly things and set our minds and hearts fully on God. It is not a way to manipulate God or coerce Him to hear and answer our prayers; rather, it acknowledges our complete dependence on Him. Fasting makes us aware of how often we are driven by our fleshly desires and appetites. It humbles us and helps us realize our great need for and our reliance on God. As you consider fasting, we want to encourage you to listen to the Holy Spirit. Ask God to lead you in this time of seeking His face. Whether you choose to fast for one day, several days, or the entire 21 days, the point is to humble yourself in a new way and draw near to God.

There are different types of fasts. We may immediately think of food. While that can be a large part of it, remember:

- 1) There are different types of food fasts.
- 2) There is more that we can fast from than food.

As we head into 21 days of prayer and fasting, read through the different fasts and decide which one is right for you this year. If you are not able to fast from food for any reason, check out the final option. It just might be the right fast for you!

## **Complete Food Fast**

In this type of fast, you drink liquids only. Drink plenty of water, then add juice and shakes as needed.

## **Partial Food Fast**

This fast is sometimes called the “Jewish Fast” and involves abstaining from any type of food for a certain period of time each day. For example, you can choose to skip one meal per day or abstain from food until sunset each day.

## **Selective Food Fast**

This fast involves removing certain elements from your diet. One example of a selective fast is the Daniel Fast, in which you drink water and juice, consume fruits and vegetables, and remove meat, sweets, and bread from your diet.

## **Soul Fast**

If you have health (or other) issues that prevent you from fasting food, or if you wish to refocus certain areas of your life that are out of balance, this is a great option for you. Examples of a soul fast include refraining from using social media or watching television for the duration of the fast, then carefully adding that element back into your life in healthy doses at the conclusion of the fast.

# Prayer

Praying is spiritual breathing—essential for our life in God. As we meditate on God’s Word, we breathe in the promises and purposes of God. In prayer, we breathe out, responding to God’s Word to us. On our website ([danriverchurch.org/21days](http://danriverchurch.org/21days)) each day, you will find a devotional to read as well as a prayer response. There is also a 21-day prayer guide at the back of this booklet. Throughout the 21 days, you will pray for specific areas in your life, our church, and our mission. Together, let’s put our faith into action, trusting in the promises of God for us and our church. Following are some helpful tips on how to make the most of this guide.

## Set Your Strategy

Building a prayer routine that works for your schedule is a crucial part of making these 21 days successful. We are creatures of habit, so the goal for the next three weeks is to establish a healthy habit of prayer that we can carry with us the rest of the year.

Your strategy should consist of three things—a time, a spot, and a plan.

**Choose a time:** What time works for you every day? If you have young children, the best time may be before they wake up or after they go to bed. It doesn’t matter when it is. Choose the time that will be the easiest for you to stick to, and put it in your calendar right now.

**Choose a spot:** Your prayer times will be more consistent if you designate a specific spot for them—a certain chair or closet, your backyard or your car. Again, it doesn’t matter where it is. It only matters that you choose a spot and stick with it.

**Choose a plan:** The best way to ensure you will have success during your time of prayer is to make a plan. The following ideas may help you with that plan.

## Create a lifestyle of prayer:

Our prayer for you during the next 21 days is that you will experience a deeper craving for the beauty of the Lord and for the wonder of His leading in your life. Our prayer is that you will realize you are not alone on this journey. You are joining with your immediate and extended church family in seeking God for significant breakthroughs. These will ripple out and turn into a tidal wave of revival and spiritual awakening across our church. Our prayer is that you will acquire your own prayer-and-fasting testimony, and that God will overwhelm you with His goodness as you seek His power, presence, and provision in every step of your journey.

Prayer is most effective when it isn't something we do every now and then, but when it becomes a lifestyle. To understand how to have a lifestyle of prayer, let's look at two examples Jesus gave us during His time on earth

### 1) Jesus made it a priority.

**Luke 11:1** (NLT) – “Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, ‘Lord, teach us to pray ...’” (Those closest to Jesus wanted to know how to better stay connected to Jesus.)

**Mark 1:35** (NIV) – “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went to a solitary place, where He prayed.”

- **Jesus had a specific time:** “Very early in the morning.”
- **Jesus had a specific place:** “a solitary place.”
- **Jesus had a specific plan:** “Lord, teach us to pray.”

### 2) Jesus gave us the example.

**Matthew 6:9–13** – “This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’”

- **Our Father:** relationship
- **Hallowed:** revere; honor; worship
- **Your kingdom ... as it is in heaven:** God's will; power
- **Daily bread:** provision
- **Forgive us ... forgive debtors:** ask and give forgiveness
- **Temptation ... evil one:** protection
- **Kingdom, power, glory forever:** total authority; supreme

Let's earnestly seek the face of God with great expectation as we wait for His revelation and instruction through these 21 days of prayer and fasting.

“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know” (Jeremiah 33:3, NIV).

Most people don't pray on a regular basis because they don't know where to start. This 21-day prayer guide can help.

# 21-Day Prayer Plan

- Day 1: Pray for your family members.
- Day 2: Pray for your church family.
- Day 3: Pray for yourself (to remain pure, faithful, and obedient).
- Day 4: Pray for DRC Students.
- Day 5: Pray for DRC Life Groups.
- Day 6: Pray for Sunday morning worship gatherings (for people to experience the love, hope, and message of Jesus Christ).
- Day 7: Pray for DRC Kids Ministry (and your own kids).
- Day 8: Pray for DRC Worship Ministry.
- Day 9: Pray for DRYA (Dan River Young Adults).
- Day 10: Pray for our city, state, and government leaders.
- Day 11: Pray for our local ministry partners (God's Storehouse, God's Pit Crew, Salvation Army, Transitions Pregnancy Solutions, House of Hope).
- Day 12: Pray for the salvation of lost people you know.
- Day 13: Pray for DRC staff and leadership team.
- Day 14: Pray for revival to break out across our city (and in your own family).
- Day 15: Pray for your friends.
- Day 16: Pray for people you work with or go to school with.
- Day 17: Pray for DRC Cares (to continue to love and serve those in need).
- Day 18: Pray for DRC Missions (Honduras, Kenya).
- Day 19: Pray for healing (those you know who are going through a physical battle).
- Day 20: Pray for DRC volunteers.
- Day 21: Pray for God's presence and favor to be upon DRC.

## Remember to pray the following: ACTS.

**Adoration:** Give God praise/worship for who He is and all He has done.

**Confession:** Take a moment to confess your sins and ask for forgiveness.

**Thanksgiving:** Express gratitude for the things in your life.

**Supplication:** Present your requests to God.

What if today was the day you established a routine for your prayers? And what if next year at this time, you could look back and know that you've prayed every day for 365 days? Praying for one day may feel underwhelming, but if you pray every day for a year, the results will be overwhelming.

Don't forget to visit [danriverchurch.org/21days](https://danriverchurch.org/21days) to keep up to date on the daily devotional reading plan.

Enjoy the journey. We're glad you are along for the ride. Let's make 2026 the year we become desperate for the One who can change everything.

# Bonus: Scripture Reading Plan Options

Perhaps, you are looking for some reading options during this 21-day period. Here are two reading plan options. Option 1 is for those interested in reading through the gospels (the first four books of the New Testament). Option 2 is for those interested in reading through the entire New Testament.

## Read through the gospels:

- Day 1: Luke 1–5
- Day 2: Luke 6–12
- Day 3: Luke 13–16
- Day 4: Luke 17–20
- Day 5: Luke 21–24
- Day 6: Mark 1–4
- Day 7: Mark 5–8
- Day 8: Mark 9–13
- Day 9: Mark 14–16
- Day 10: Matthew 1–4
- Day 11: Matthew 5–8
- Day 12: Matthew 9–12
- Day 13: Matthew 13–16
- Day 14: Matthew 17–20
- Day 15: Matthew 21–24
- Day 16: Matthew 25–28
- Day 17: John 1–4
- Day 18: John 5–9
- Day 19: John 10–11
- Day 20: John 12–16
- Day 21: John 17–21

## Read through the New Testament:

- Day 1: Matthew 1–10
- Day 2: Matthew 11–20
- Day 3: Matthew 21–28
- Day 4: Mark 1–8
- Day 5: Mark 9–16
- Day 6: Luke 1–8
- Day 7: Luke 9–16
- Day 8: Luke 17–21
- Day 9: John 1–10
- Day 10: John 11–21
- Day 11: Acts 1–10
- Day 12: Acts 11–20
- Day 13: Acts 21–28
- Day 14: Romans
- Day 15: 1 Corinthians
- Day 16: 2 Corinthians; Galatians
- Day 17: Ephesians; Philippians;  
Colossians; 1 Thessalonians; 2  
Thessalonians
- Day 18: 1 Timothy; 2 Timothy; Titus;  
Philemon; Hebrews
- Day 19: James; 1 Peter; 2 Peter; 1 John; 2  
John; 3 John; Jude
- Day 20: Revelation 1–10
- Day 21: Revelation 11–22



